

Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting
May 27, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 by Marva Campbell-Pruitt. The meeting was chaired by Marva Campbell-Pruitt

Roll Call

Members Present: Darcy Contri, Sue Walter, Deb Fornoff, Andi Berryman, Sandy Mott, Terry Braidwood, Margie Harkness, Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Lola Lucas, Adjoa Blalock, Beth Hanselman.

No modifications to the agenda.

Question: Is HR1117 the same as HB979 or are these two different things. They are two different pieces of legislation.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted by common consent.

Lola Lucas wanted to be added to the January roll call because she attended the meeting. The minutes had Lola Lucas' last name misspelled. Sue will correct the error.

Old business from the March 25th minutes was the 2008-2009 annual report. The 2007 – 2008 report is not the one Marva requested assistance with in regard to the signature page. Marva was referring to the 2007 – 2008 report. Marva would like to get this report ready for posting and needs assistance with getting the signed report. The 2007 – 2008 Annual Report is not posted yet. We still need to scan in the signature page and then put it together. Sue W doesn't have the signature page otherwise she would do it. Marva stated the only signature page we have at this point is the one that was printed in the actual documents. The DHS print shop does not return the original document which is the cause of our problem. Sue W can scan a copy of the copy and incorporate it.

Approval of Minutes: January and March minutes were approved with the changes that were made.

Chairman's Report:

Marva Campbell-Pruitt, DHS/DRS:

Chairman's report this month is more related to ICC. Marva did attend a meeting with the Attorney General's Office on May 13th. She attended the Special Education Advisory Counsel for the Attorney General's Office which does have a transition subcommittee. She presented to the subcommittee first and then to the committee as a whole. Matt Cohen is the Chairperson. Benjamin Johnson is the contact for the Attorney General's Office and Marva thought it would be helpful to invite him to our next meeting, however prior to doing so she wanted to bring this idea back to the Council.

The Special Education Advisory Council was pulled together more than twenty years ago to advise the then governor and General Assembly on special education issues relative to what is happening in the state of Illinois. At that time the Attorney General had the Special Education Advisory Council and a number of other advisory councils. All of the other advisory councils have fallen by the way side and that the Special Education Advisory Council is the only one that is still meeting on a regular basis.

Beth Hanselman has been invited by Matt Cohen to be a member of that committee and her first meeting will be within the next month. Beth will be attending the first meeting with them, however she will not be attending all meetings; she will join meetings at their discretion. ISBE has been trying for years to be placed on this committee. Chris Koch had also tried for a number of years to get on the committee so Beth is very excited to work with them. The reason that the State Board of Education is not going to be considered a regular participant is because, based on the information from Matt Cohen, all of the individuals who are on the committee must be in agreement and have 100% consensus on whatever action they are going to take. Often times those actions are contrary or a little disjointed from where we might be going as the State Board of Education. Therefore, the decision was made to have ISBE at the table as needed rather than the AG's subcommittee taking their initiatives forward and then the general assembly asking for ISBE input. With ISBE at the table, questions can be answered, information clarified and technical assistance provided as the AG's subcommittee pursues transition-related topics. Beth feels this is a very valuable step in starting a dialogue and communication with the AG's subcommittee on special education and transition.

Marva stated that a number of the people on the Special Education Advisory Council did not necessarily feel that the educators in schools are proficient enough to provide transition services and that as a result the DRS counselors are the ones that should take the lead regardless of what is in the IEP.

Beth went back to Marva's comments about including a member from the AG's subcommittee on the ICC. Beth's opinion is that we have already included a representative from the AG's subcommittee on the ISAC Transition Committee as they attempt to pull a variety of transition stakeholders to the table and she feels that voice would be heard through the ISAC Transition Committee and brought to the ICC through that venue and then also through her participation. Beth stated that she can bring information back to the ICC as well as serving as the conduit of ICC and the ISBE to the Attorney Generals committee and sharing the work we're doing.

Marva stated that the conversation was not about a member of the AG's transition subcommittee but to have someone from the Attorney General's office on the ICC.

Question to Marva: Were you presenting on DRS or on ICC? Marva stated that when she attended she thought she would be presenting the ICC especially when presenting to the small group so that is what she went prepared to do. She still had some information on DRS for the full committee which is what they asked for, but as it turned out the questions and concerns that they had were pertaining to DRS more so than ICC even in the small group meeting.

Additional information from Marva:

- 2007-2008 ICC Annual Report has been printed and has been distributed to people who responded to Marva's email.
- The Transition Planning Committees have been given \$15,000 from the MIG Grant that will be used for a couple trainings that will be discussed under Interagency training. With the MIG grant DRS is developing a statewide website and for the TPC's. Right now approximately 25% of the committees have their own websites, others have a desire for a website and this grant will allow us to have just one website where each one TPC will have a link and can develop their own directories. This plan seemed to be the most cost effective. Naturally some of the TPC's are presenting other proposals for additional money that they can use between now and December.
- Marva is in communication with Larry Small at the Department of Child Family Services regarding participation on the ICC.

Update from ISBE:

Beth reported that ISBE has just opened the registration process for the Special Education Directors' Conference which will be in Peoria, August 5, 6, 7. She is happy to report that there is a strong strand of breakout sessions on transition. There will be national and higher education and district representatives and Sue Walter will be presenting on some of the material. Beth explained that transition is really a focus area for the division specifically in light of our LEA Determinations. The LEA Determinations are a requirement of the federal government. Each state reviews State Performance Plan (SPP) data from all of their school districts and makes determinations based on performance in regard to the compliance-based indicators. The compliance indicators of the SPP include Indicators 9 & 10 on disproportionality, Indicator 11 Child Find, Indicator 13 transition, Indicator 15 correction of noncompliance and Indicator 20 timely and accurate submission of the data.

Part of the comment that could have come from the AG's office is looking at our data for transition and that the overall state data is not as good as one would hope it to be. And so that brings our focus to transition and on what additional tools might be needed on our website structured help districts improve their data entry process and/or their transition planning process. The first year we reported the transition or Indicator 13 data, a number of data errors occurred because of changes and regulation or guidance that was received from the federal level so this would have been the first full year in which the guidance had been in place. With those LEA Determinations a large percentage of our districts who did not receive a "meets", were because of timely and accurate submission of data. Many districts are very upset with their designation with not receiving that "meets" because of restrictions it bring with use of the ARRA funds.

Sue W stated that the newly developed Transition Practices Self Assessment (TPSA) tool has been posted on the ISBE website, specifically on the Indicator 13, Tools and Resources for Transition Planning page.

Beth had the opportunity last week to testify in front of the House Education in Labor Committee on physical restraint in isolated time out seclusion. The Federal Government has looked at all of the states with regard to our rules on physical restraint and seclusion and our state wide implementation of PBIS. Illinois is viewed as a model and the Federal government is looking to Illinois to assist in making recommendations possibly for national standards.

Old Business:

Adjoa Blalock - Update on HR1117. The workgroup is still meeting and working on the document that will be shared with each of the state departments and then passed on to the legislators. A draft has been prepared and will be reviewed at a meeting scheduled in June. The document includes the vision, statement of the problems and some recommendations for solutions. The task force work group would like to complete the document to respond to the HR by the end of June.

Data Collection:

HB979 has passed in both houses with no amendments. This part of the bill of concern here is districts submission of data to TPC's. Marva has been in communication with some leaders of the TPC's who have agreed to come together and have an Ad Hoc committee look at and pronounce what we would really want and what is doable in terms of asking the schools to provide to TPC's. We are also hoping that those leaders can work with the ICC subcommittee as well. If someone from ISAC wants to be on the committee we are open to that as well.

Workgroups

Margie Harkness provided an update on the Postsecondary Roundtable she is working with. The last meeting the roundtable group, convened by the ICDD and Community College Board was in April. Joe Caldwell, with the Association of University Centers and Disability, presented about the reauthorization of the Higher Ed Act. There will be a coordination center and demonstration projects of programs for people with cognitive disabilities in transition and postsecondary education. There will be increased access to financial aid for people with disabilities who don't meet the previous criteria for showing progress.

There will be more accessible text books and a college navigator program. There will be a study about the barriers faces by students with disabilities. Teacher preparation in universal design is included. Right now all programs and activities other than the financial aid depend on money being appropriated. Appropriations have not been passed so that needs to happen before any of these things would begin.

Public Relations and Marketing

Lola has no report at this time.

Education and Training

Statewide Transition Conference Update:

The IL Transition Conference website (www.illinoistransitionconference.org) is completely functional and a registration link will be added very soon. . The hard copy registration booklets will be sent out by the end of this week to those who have asked for a certain amount. Speaker bios will be added to each conference session description via the presenter's name. Viewers will be able to click on a presenter's name and see their bio. There will be over 66 breakouts and two key notes and 4 concurrent plenary sessions. November 8th is the preconference and the 9th and 10th is the conference.

Interagency Training:

At the last meeting, Beth suggested September rather than July for the Interagency Training activity. Discussion proceeded and concerns were brought up about the timing and this activities closeness to the Transition Conference. Marva suggested the Council table the Interagency Training until the first meeting of 2010 Motion was taken to table the training.

New Business

MIG Grant:

Sandy said the strategic plan in on their website which is www.hbwdillinois.com and the link to the grant is in the left column.. The interagency agreements are in place now with DHS, DCEO and Southern Illinois University Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. The support of the TPCs is in the DHS agreement for \$15,000 this year and is anticipated to increase for calendar year 2010. Other items included in the DHS agreement are marketing materials for benefits planning and support of training and technical assistance for evidence-based supported employment. The interagency agreement with DCEO is for a series of Employer Summits sponsored by the local Chambers of Commerce, a benefits planning website and funding for career development materials for youth and parents in transition. The interagency agreement with SIU includes a research study of the employment barriers for college graduates with disabilities. The strategic plan also includes a myriad of recommendations which the Leadership Committee is working on, such as developing a PASS Loan Program, reviewing the Business Enterprise Program to increase the number of businesses owned by people with disabilities participating in that program, as well as various policy recommendations.

Agency Reports

An email was sent to everyone with information regarding summer employment while still in school was a big factor in getting jobs posted in the school. Summer jobs are looked at as a way to increase students getting employed once they graduated.

ISBE is hopeful that the ARRA funding will have a big impact on transition. Also, go to the ISBE website to check out the new Transition Practices Self Assessment (TPSA) tool. There is a little training module on how to use that data to do action planning. The goal of the TPSA is district and cooperative level to step back and do some thoughtful thinking and planning with or within their TPC. The tool looks at five research-based areas: student development, student-focused planning, interagency collaboration, program structure, and family involvement.

At the last joint ICC/ISAC Transition Committee meeting it was decided that goals should be developed for this. The joint group hopes to meet a couple times a year. A work day for the joint group is planned for July 15. The goal of that work day is to develop a plan, prioritize and then choose some work groups based on the goals we that are developed. Sharon Slover will be the facilitator for this workday and will use a process that is similar to MAP or PATH for the morning portion of the workday. In the afternoon, the group will move into small workgroups to plan a direction for our joint efforts around transition.

The ISAC Transition Subcommittee expanded in February to include a few other organizations including the AG's office, IAASE, one of Illinois parent training information centers in order to put more people around the table who have a huge stake in transition and outcomes. The focus of that first meeting with expanded membership was about high expectation and how everything that we talked about came back to that and the fact that when high expectations are not there, don't happen. The ISAC Transition Subcommittee developed a white paper and the draft has been reviewed by all, updated and corrected. At the last meeting of the whole committee, ISAC decided it wants to approve the white paper before it is allowed to be posted anywhere or shared beyond the subcommittee.

When the white paper is approved, IAASE will include it in their newsletter and it will go in the next ISAC legislative newsletter, and can also be posted to the ISAC webpage. People were asked to submit any corrections or additions or deletions by the end of the day today so it will go to the ISAC meeting June 9th and 10th.

Announcements:

No announcements.

Adjournment:

The May 27th meeting was adjourned by Marva at 3:30 pm.